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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL LETTER

| Attorney Docket No. | Serial No. |
|---------------------|------------|
| 221P127US01 | 10/764,498 |

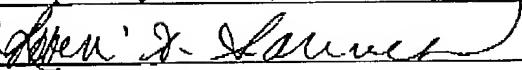
MS: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

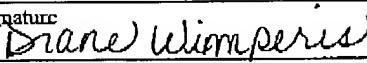
TOTAL NO. OF PAGES: 4
Sent to Facsimile No.: 703-872-9306
Examiner Phone No.: Unknown

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|---|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| In re Application of: | Matthew J. Blackford | | |
| Serial No.: | 10/764,498 | Examiner: | Unknown |
| Confirmation No.: | 6261 | Art Unit: | 3634 |
| Filed: | January 27, 2004 | | |
| For: | RATCHETING ANCHORAGE DEVICE | | |
| We are transmitting the following documents: | | | |
| Facsimile Transmittal Letter [1 page] Information Disclosure Statement Under (37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)) [2 pages] Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant [1 page] | | | |

Please charge Deposit Account 50-0549 for any fees under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 that may be required during the pendency of this application. This authorization includes the fee for any extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) that may be necessary. To the extent any such extension should become necessary it is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Registration No. 45,070 | Direct Dial 612-331-7419 |  |
| Date: June 24, 2004 | | Robin A. Sannes |
| United States Patent and Trademark Office | | |
| Customer No. 23322 | | |

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| Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8, I certify that this correspondence is being sent to the telephone number shown below, addressed to: MS: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below indicated date. | |
| To Facsimile Number 703-872-9306 | Signature  |
| Date June 24, 2004 | Printed Name Diane Wimperis |

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JUN 24 2004
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------|
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| Serial No.: | 10/764,498 | Art Unit: | 3634 |
| Filed: | January 27, 2004 | Confirmation No.: | 6261 |
| For: | RATCHETING ANCHORAGE DEVICE | | |

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile to the telephone number shown below, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, at Facsimile Number: 703-872-9306 on the below indicated date:

June 24, 2004

Diane Wimperis

Diane Wimperis

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

MS: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

In accordance with the Notice signed July 11, 2003 at 1276 OG 55, copies of the U.S. Patents listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not enclosed.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of the first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500549.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 24, 2004

By: 
Robin A. Sannes
Reg. No. 45,070
IPLM Group, P.A.
Post Office Box 18455
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Telephone (612) 331-7419

RAS:dmw

Substitute for Form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

| Complete if Known | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Application Number | 10/764,498 |
| Filing Date | January 27, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor | Matthew J. Blackford |
| Art Unit | 3634 |
| Examiner Name | Unknown |
| Attorney Docket No. | 221P127US01 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Country Code/Number/Kind Code | | | |
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENT | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|---|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |
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|-----------------|------------------------|
| EXAMINER | Date Considered |
|-----------------|------------------------|

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.